

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17, leaves claims 5, 7, 12, 18 and 19 unchanged and cancels claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 15. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 4-8, 11-14 and 16-19.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not consider an Information Disclosure Statement filed along with the present application on March 9, 2001. Copies of the Information Disclosure Statement are attached. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the information cited by the March 9, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement.

Filed on even date herewith are Proposed Drawing Corrections so as to correct minor errors in Fig. 10. Approval of the same is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Haszto (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,338); claims 3, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haszto in view of Lange (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,794) and claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haszto in view of Lange and further in view of Bryan (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0146015). As indicated above, claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 15 were canceled. Therefore, these rejections with respect to claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 15 are rendered moot. These rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1, 4-8, 11-14 and 16-19 are traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Haszto, Lange or Bryan whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to each of the claims so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a service providing system and a service mediating apparatus included in the service providing system. As per the present invention as illustrated in Fig. 1, the service providing system includes at least one service providing apparatus 200 for processing information to provide a service, at least one service requesting apparatus 300 for processing information to request the service from the service providing apparatus 200 and at least one service mediating apparatus 100 connected to the service providing apparatus 200 and the service requesting apparatus 300 via a network 1.

According to the present invention the service requesting apparatus 300 receives a voice input indicating an instruction as to a service requested by the user of the service requesting apparatus 300. The service mediating apparatus 100 specifies a service providing apparatus 200 which is to perform a process corresponding to the instruction and, based on the specified service providing apparatus 200, specifies a speech recognition engine 200C which is to recognize a voice input from the user. The specified service providing apparatus 200 processes information to provide a service based on speech recognition performed by the speech recognition engine 200C.

Further, according to the present invention, the service mediating apparatus 100 includes a table 105 as illustrated in Fig. 10 having a plurality of entries defining

corresponding relationships 105-2 between service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech. In the present invention, the table 105 is used by the service mediating apparatus 100 to select one of the speech recognition engines which recognizes particular speech corresponding to the instruction.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Haszto, Lange or Bryan whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Haszto discloses a natural language knowledge server which serves as a network resource so as to allow a first server to communicate with a client computer. Haszto illustrates such a system, for example, in Fig. 1 thereof wherein a first server 10 can communicate with a client computer 12 and a network knowledge server 14 is provided so as to be in communication with and separated from the first server 10. As taught by Haszto, the first server 10 produces a speech signal representing speech from a user at the client computer 12 and context information which indicates the kind of application the first server is running, the semantic context of the application, any prior knowledge relating to the user's request, and a predefined format in which data are returned to the first server 10. Haszto teaches that the network knowledge server 14 returns to the first server 10 a text structure having one or more fields corresponding to the predefined format. The first server 10 as per

Haszto uses data from such one or more fields of the text structure from the network knowledge server 14 to determine a response to the user's speech, such as by querying a database 16.

The features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are entirely different from that taught by Haszto. The present invention provides as described above a service providing system wherein a service mediating apparatus 10 is provided to operate between the service requesting apparatus (client) and the service providing apparatus (first server). According to the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, the service mediating apparatus includes a table 105 such as that illustrated in Fig. 10 of the present application having a plurality of entries which define relationships between service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines. As per the present invention, for example, as illustrated in Fig. 10 each speech recognition engine is intended to be cable of recognizing particular and the service mediating apparatus makes use of the table so as to narrow down the number of possible speech recognition engines to one based on particular speech corresponding to the user instruction. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Haszto.

Thus, Haszto fails to teach or suggest at least one service mediating apparatus connected to the service providing apparatus and the service requesting apparatus via network, wherein the service mediating apparatus includes a table having a plurality of entries defining corresponding relationships between service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines each of which recognizes particular speech, and wherein the table is used by the service mediating apparatus

to select one of the speech recognition engines which recognizes particular speech corresponding to the user instruction based on the instructions as recited in the claims.

Therefore, as is quite clear from the above, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Haszto. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 6 and 8 as being anticipated by Haszto is respectfully requested.

The above noted deficiencies of Haszto are not supplied by any of the other references of record, particularly Lange and Bryan. Therefore, combining the teachings of Haszto with one or more of Lange and Bryan in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Lange simply discloses a network system having a user interface which allows a user to interact with the network system. Particularly, Lange discloses a web service system using an agent server 20 and an agent program 22 to allow a user to access the network system. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Lange of the above described features regarding the service mediating apparatus. In fact, the Examiner merely relies on Lange for an alleged teaching of an agent server that has one or more processors and stores information beneficial to the service providing apparatuses.

However, it is quite clear that there is no teaching or suggestion in Lange of the above described features of the present invention regarding the table included in

the service mediating apparatus having a plurality of entries defining corresponding relationships between service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines and that the table is used by the service mediating apparatus to select one of the speech recognition engines which recognizes particular speech corresponding to the instruction as recited in the claims.

The above noted deficiencies of both Haszton and Lange are also evident in Bryan. Bryan is simply relied upon by the Examiner for an alleged teaching of the use of voice extendable markup language. However, at no point is there any teaching or suggestion in Bryan of the above described features now more clearly recited in the claims regarding the service mediating apparatus including a table defining relations between service providing apparatuses and speech recognition engines.

Thus, combining the teachings of Haszto with one more of Lange and Bryan in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of claims 4, 5, 7, 11-14 and 16-19 as being unpatentable over Haszto taken in combination with one or more of Lange and Bryan is respectfully requested.

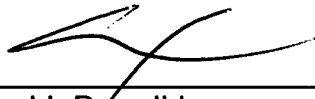
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-19.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-8, 11-14 and 16-19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1, 4-8, 11-14 and 16-19 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.41888X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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